

Rhode Island DOT News

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RIDOT Release 107:09

August 25, 2009

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BARRINGTON BRIDGE OPENING TO TRAFFIC IN STAGES

Westbound traffic to use the new bridge tomorrow

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) announced today that it will begin the process of opening the Barrington Bridge tomorrow, Wednesday, August 26, 2009. The opening will be done in stages, with westbound traffic diverted to the new bridge first. The transition will take place during the work day on Wednesday.

Once westbound traffic is on the new bridge, RIDOT will begin construction on a short section of roadway between the bridge and New Meadow Road so eastbound traffic can use the new bridge. This work cannot be done until the westbound lane is open because the approach roads to the new bridge and the temporary Barrington Bridge slightly overlap.

The Department anticipates the bridge will be open to two-way traffic prior to Labor Day.

Even after both lanes are open, construction will continue on the new Barrington Bridge through the fall. Occasional lane closures may be required. Pedestrian traffic will continue to use the temporary bridge until demolition begins later next month. All schedules are weather-dependent.

The new Barrington Bridge is 418 feet long and 30 feet wide. It features wider sidewalks on both sides (eight feet versus five feet on the original bridge) with a protective rail between the sidewalk and travel lane. Additionally, period lighting will be installed on the bridge.